

PLEASE vote NO on HB 5263

This bill will allow the processing of thousands of rabbits and will bring factory-like farming of rabbits to CT under the guise of promoting farming in the state.

THIS IS CRUEL and is a horrible idea.

1- Rabbits are the third most common household pet after dogs and cats

2- Due to public pressure, Petco and PetSmart stopped selling pet rabbits.

They now only display rescue rabbits for adoption – the same treatment they give to dogs and cats.

3-Whole Foods and other specialty stores stopped selling rabbit meat after concluding there was no market for sales.

4-The multi-billion-dollar cosmetic industry has been moving away from using rabbits and other animals in their testing programs due to consumer pressure.

5-While the rest of the country has recognized and elevated rabbits as pets, CT is taking a step backward in proposing this initiative.

As a farming family I am against this. This allows for poor conditions and treatment. With rabbit hemorrhagic disease coming across the country and spreading quickly, importing and moving rabbits without proper vaccination is reckless and cruel. While not yet in CT this will surely speed up the arrival. Rescues are desperate for this vaccine and its costly at 150 or more a rabbit. I as an owner already having difficulty getting this vaccine due to cost and availability I am desperate to get them vaccinated before confirmed cases arrive. Please reconsider the costs and ethics of this as well as the marketing. Save farming in this state in another way by truly helping the current farmers such as the dairy farmers.

Think kindly, please.

Respectfully,

Amber Manville